

Appln. No. 09/403,861

Amd. dated June 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2003

*Renumbered  
Claims*Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-40 (Cancelled)

1 ~~41~~ (Currently amended). A glucocorticoid-induced leucine-zipper family related (GILR) protein capable of inhibiting apoptosis and stimulating lymphocyte activity, wherein said GILR protein:

(a) is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; or

(b) contains no more than ~~[[ten]]~~ five amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, each of said changes being either alternative conservative substitutions within one of the following five groups of amino acid residues:

- (1) Ala, Ser, Thr, Pro, Gly;
- (2) Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln;
- (3) His, Arg, Lys;
- (4) Met, Leu, Ile, Val, Cys; and
- (5) Phe, Tyr, Trp

or deletion of one or more of residues 123, 124, and 125 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Appln. No. 09/403,861

Amd. dated June 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2003

Claims 42-45 (Cancelled).

~~2~~ 46 (Previously presented). A composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the GILR protein of claim ~~41~~<sup>1</sup>.

~~3~~ 47 (Previously presented). A chemically modified GILR protein of claim ~~41~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein said GILR protein of claim 41 is chemically modified by being conjugated or complexed with molecules facilitating or enhancing the transport of said GILR protein across cell membrane and wherein the chemically modified GILR protein has the same or higher biological activity as said GILR protein.

~~4~~ 48 (Previously presented). A composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the chemically modified GILR protein of claim ~~47~~<sup>3</sup>.

Claims 49-52 (Cancelled).

~~5~~ 53 (Previously presented). The GILR protein of claim ~~41~~<sup>1</sup>, which is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 54-56 (Cancelled).

Appln. No. 09/403,861

Amd. dated June 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2003

6  
57 (Currently amended). The GILR protein of claim  
[[56]] 41, wherein said no more than five amino acid changes from  
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 are present at amino acid  
residue positions selected from the group consisting of residue  
positions 22, 50, 75, 84, 112, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, and 128  
of SEQ ID NO:2.

7  
58 (Currently amended). The GILR protein of claim  
[[54]] 41, which contains no more than three amino acid changes  
from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

7 8  
59 (Previously presented). The GILR protein of claim  
58, wherein said no more than three amino acid changes from the  
amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 are present at amino acid  
residue positions selected from the group consisting of residue  
positions 22, 50, 75, 84, 112, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, and 128  
of SEQ ID NO:2.

9  
60 (Currently amended). The GILR protein of claim  
[[54]] 41, which contains a single amino acid change from the  
amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

9 10  
61 (Previously presented). The GILR protein of claim  
60, wherein said single amino acid change from the amino acid  
sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 is present at an amino acid position

Appln. No. 09/403,861

Amd. dated June 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2003

selected from the group consisting of residue positions 22, 50, 75, 84, 112, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, and 128 of SEQ ID NO:2.

11/62 (New). A glucocorticoid-induced leucine-zipper family related (GILR) protein capable of inhibiting apoptosis and stimulating lymphocyte activity, wherein said GILR protein contains no more than ten amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, each of said changes being either alternative conservative substitutions of amino acid residue positions selected from the group consisting of residue positions 22, 50, 75, 84, 112, 122, 127, and 128 of SEQ ID NO:2 within one of the following five groups of amino acid residues:

- (1) Ala, Ser, Thr, Pro, Gly;
- (2) Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln;
- (3) His, Arg, Lys;
- (4) Met, Leu, Ile, Val, Cys; and
- (5) Phe, Tyr, Trp,

or deletion of one or more of residues 123, 124, and 125 of SEQ ID NO:2.

12/63 (New). The GILR protein of claim 62, wherein said alternative conservative substitutions of amino acid residue positions are selected from the group consisting of residue positions 50, 75, 84, 122, and 128.

Appln. No. 09/403,861

Amd. dated June 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2003

13 ~~64~~ (New). A composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the GILR protein of claim ~~62~~. 11

14 ~~65~~ (New). A chemically modified GILR protein of claim 62, wherein said GILR protein of claim ~~62~~ is chemically modified by being conjugated or complexed with molecules facilitating or enhancing the transport of said GILR protein across cell membrane and wherein the chemically modified GILR protein has the same or higher biological activity as said GILR protein.

15 ~~66~~ (New). A composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the chemically modified GILR protein of claim ~~65~~. 14